(b) and (c) OMCs set up LPG distributorships at viable locations as per their commercial considerations and it is a continuous process. State-wise targets for setting up of distributorships are not fixed by OMCs in a given year.

Subsidy on LPG and Kerosene

2186. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to continue providing subsidy on both LPG and Kerosene till March, 2007;

(b) what is the present quantum of subsidy being provided both for LPG and Kerosene;

(c) whether the oil marketing companies have sought for sharing of the subsidy burden by upstream companies like ONGC and GAIL; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The per unit Government subsidy on domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene during 2004-05 is Rs. 40.65/cylinder and Rs. 1.47/litre respectively. In addition, oil PSUs are sharing the burden of subsidizing these products.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) ONGC, GAIL and OIL have agreed to share the burden of under-recoveries of Oil Marketing Companies on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG.

Review of Fuel Pricing Policy

2187. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would review the fuel pricing policy;

(b) whether Government would impose control over the petroleum companies in view of the frequent and unwarranted increase of fuel prices;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and